Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRASIL 03381 202053Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 SAM-01 OES-06

SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 FEA-01 NEA-10 PA-02 PRS-01 /114 W ----- 020041

R 201925Z APR 76 FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5133 INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 3381

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, BR
SUBJ: PETROBRAS ANNOUNCES QUALIFICATION OF 40 FOREIGN OIL
COMPANIES FOR RISK CONTRACT COMPETITION

REF.: (A) RIO 721 (B) RIO 1293

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM PREPARED BY CONGEN RIO, EMBASSY CONCURS.

1. ON APRIL 15 PETROBRAS ANNOUNCED THAT 40 FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES HAD QUALIFIED FOR PARTICIPATION IN RISK CONTRACT EXPLORATION PROGRAM FOR THE 10 BLOCKS ANNOUNCED BY PETROBRAS ON FEBRUARY 16 (SEE REFTELS). THE QUALIFYING COMPANIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED BY LETTER THAT PETROBRAS'S GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL DATA ON 10 AREAS CAN BE PURCHASED FOR A TOTAL OF \$400,000 AND THAT THE COMPANIES MAY SUBMIT THEIR PROPOSALS TO PETROBRAS UNTIL COB JULY 15. ALTHOUGH A COMPANY CAN SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR AS MANY OF THE BLOCKS AS IT CARES TO, A COMPANY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE IN MORE THAN THREE BLOCKS. IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM THE PETROBRAS AMMOUNCEMENT WHETHER THE APPLICABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE RISK CONTRACTS WERE INCLUDED IN THE LETTERS TO THE QUALIFYING UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRASIL 03381 202053Z

COMPANIES.

2. ALTHOUGH PETROBRAS HAS NOT PUBLICLY REVEALED THE NAMES OF THE 40 COMPANIES, THE APRIL 16 JORNAL DO BRASIL PUBLISHED A LIST WHICH IT CLAIMS WAS SUPPLIED BY PETROBRAS SOURCES. MORE THAN HALF OF THE COMPANIES ARE U.S. FIRMS. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS: PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY: ESSO INTER-AMERICANA INC.; NATOMAS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION; GULF OIL COMPANY; OCCIDENTAL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION CO.V EXOCO INTERNATIONAL; UNION OIL CO. OF CALIFORNIA: GETTY OIL CO.: HIDBAY OIL INTERNATIONAL; CHEVRON OVERSEAS PETROLEUM INC., MARATHON INTERNATIONAL OIL CO.; ATLANTIC RICHFIELD CO.; SUN OIL CO.; CANADIAN HOMESTREAD OILS LIMITED; TRANS-OCEAN OIL INC.; TEXAS PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL INC.; AMERICAN INDEPENDENT OIL CO.; CHAMPLIN OVERSEAS CO.; MOBIL OIL CORPORATION; ENTREPRISE DE RECHERCHES D'ACTIVITES PETROLIERES; COMPAGNIE FRANCAISE DES PETROLES; ELF-ERAP; TAXACO: SHELL INTERNATIONALE MAATSCHAPPIJ; SHELL OIL; TEIKOKI OIL CO. LTD.; HISPANICA DE PETROLEOS S.A.; HISPANOIL; BRITISH PETROLEUM CO. LTD.; ARABIAN OIL CO. LTD.; MITSUI & CO. LTD.; PETROFINA, ENTE NACIONALE IDROCARBURI; TAXACO INTERMAMERICAN EXPLORATION CO.: WHITESTONE INTERNATIONAL INC.; CANADIAN SUPERIOR OIL LTD.; SEAGULL INTERNATIONAL EXPLORATION INC.; MINOCO; TENNECO OIL CO.; VAN DIKE OIL CO.; AMCO INTERNATIONAL OIL CO. CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS (BID) Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 20 APR 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Decument Number: 1076BBAS

Document Number: 1976BRASIL03381 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D760150-0139

From: BRASILIA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760445/aaaablte.tel Line Count: 85

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION ARA Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 76 RIO DE JANEIRO 721, 76 RIO DE JANEIRO 1293

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: oatisao

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 14 JUL 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by oatisao>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: PETROBRAS ANNOUNCES QUALIFICATION OF 40 FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES FOR RISK CONTRACT COMPETITION TAGS: ENRG, EINV, BR, PETROBRAS
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006